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SECURITY INFORMATION

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22 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: RRD/TSS

SUBJECT: Field Marking Equipment - RDP-60

REFERENCE: Memorandum for RDAB from ACRD; Subject: "Field Marking Equipment (RDP-60), Beacon, Field Marking, Infrared (RDP-60A), Night Landing System, Ultraviolet (RDP-60B) - Progress Report and Request for Requirements; Dated 5 May 1952.

1. The infrared field marking beacon and associated equipment appear to be adequate for marking a drop zone for aircraft. However, a system not requiring the use of metasopes in the plane might prove more practical. Within the limitations to security imposed by the noise of aircraft engines, the use of elements of the ultraviolet night landing system might be more advantageous. In view of the above security considerations, the limited additional light within the visual spectrum of the ultraviolet system would appear inconsequential while operating conditions for the crew of the aircraft would be much improved. The infrared beacons might best be developed for navigation, homing, or recognition uses while for aircraft control at the drop or landing site an ultraviolet system seems most practical.

2. The infrared beacon would not be limited to use with aircraft as the ultraviolet system appears to be, but should prove valuable in ship to shore and ship to ship operations.

3. Use of elements of either the infrared or ultraviolet systems is expected to be extremely limited in the cold war period. Estimated requirements, subject to quarterly revision, for caching, stockpiling or operational use during the cold war have been given in detail to Logistics Division. Since a good portion of NEA Division's supply and resupply activities are expected to be handled by air drop in wartime, the development of field marking equipment should be continued; NEA Division desires a priority of two (2) for this project.

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